

SANCTUARY LONDON

A PLACE TO BELONG

We're striving to find home. Together.



Featuring Musician Jeremy Jongejan

Harvest Moon

OUR THIRD ANNUAL FALL FUNDRAISER IN SUPPORT OF: 2025

Sanctuary London



Join us for a fun-filled evening as we learn about and support the important work of Sanctuary London.

Friday October 3, 2025



Cash Bar opens at 5:30pm, Welcome and Intros at 6!

LIVE MUSIC | FIRE-ROASTED MEATS, SALADS & DESSERT | LIVE AUCTION

Tickets are \$100/person and include a \$70 Charitable Receipt

Buy your Tickets HERE!

<https://www.zeffy.com/ticketing/harvest-moon-2>



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www.sanctuarylondon.ca

Maximize your giving: All donations received will be GIFT-MATCHED up to \$60,000.00!!!

A Day in the Life: Living in an Encampment in London, ON.

The statistics on homelessness can feel overwhelming, but behind every number is a person with a story. To help bring those numbers to life, here is a composite story, a day told through the voice of many people living in London's encampments. People who are beloved, who are deserving of human rights and basic needs. People who we care deeply for and who care deeply for us and for each other.

Morning: Waking up in uncertainty

I wake up before the sun. It's cold, and I didn't sleep much. My body aches and it takes a while to be able to move and get up. Out here, you never really sleep, you doze, listening for footsteps or the sound of bylaw officers who might show up. Last night the rain pooled inside my tent, so my socks are still damp, and my blankets are wet again. My thoughts drift and I wonder how others in our camp fared overnight. I hope everyone is okay.



I really must pee but there are no portapotties or toilets near by. I guess you'll have to use your imagination on that one.

By seven, I'm up, rolling some of my things into a backpack I can barely lift. If bylaw comes today, I'll have only a few minutes to grab what I can before the rest gets thrown into a truck. I've already had my ID, the only picture I had of my kids and two tents taken from me this way.

Midday: Moving and waiting

I head downtown, hoping for something to eat. Today is Monday, Sanctuary is open, they usually have coffee and something warm. Food and connection help keep me going.

The afternoon is a blur of waiting in discouragement. Wait lists are long in the city. Most places are overwhelmed and understaffed. I persist and wait anyways. Waiting for a shower, waiting to do laundry, waiting to use the computer, waiting to see a nurse. All this waiting and not knowing if any of this will happen today.



I also wait for a worker to return my call, but their caseloads are so full. Hopefully they get a chance to call on a day when I have a phone. Waiting for a shelter bed that probably won't come. People pass by and stare. Sometimes they yell things, like "get a job," as if I don't want one, as if I don't fight every single day just to make it this far. I am mostly exhausted all the time going around the city to have my basic needs met.

Later, word comes that the river might flood where we've set up camp, so we pack fast. One friend leaves their tent behind—it's too heavy to carry again. Another friend doesn't have shoes today. Out here, the ground beneath you is never steady.

Evening: Finding safety

At dinnertime, I line up at a meal program. There are only 316 shelter beds in all of London, so most nights I'll end up back at the tent. I stick close to the others; we watch out for each other. Still, it's never really safe.

When it's dark, I crawl into my tent again. The ground is cold. My stomach still rumbles even though I ate. I listen to the sounds around me. I hear cars, trains, sometimes footsteps, sometimes shouting. Every noise could mean trouble. I am very aware that the neighbourhood I'm staying in doesn't want me here. Some people are kind and bring us water and a few snacks, but some people come down at night when the camp is quiet, bringing violence with them in attempts to harass us into leaving. We have nowhere else to go. It can be really scary inside a tent not knowing what is just outside, but I need to lay my head down and rest. Sleep is light, broken.

By three in the morning, I'm sitting outside smoking, waiting for daylight to come.

Why does this matter?

This is one day. Tomorrow will be the same... and the next day... and the next - unless something changes.

At Sanctuary, we believe new ideas are needed: safe, affordable, and dignified housing. That's why we're working toward building micro home communities rooted in care, belonging, and stability. Together, we can move beyond the numbers and create a London where no one is left outside.



Even among all the hardship of living in an encampment, our community members still seek and display beauty, wonder, creativity, and goodness. Here, a community member is always saving a few bits of his food to share with the ducks. And he'll invite just about anyone to come and sit and chat and join himself and the birds!

The nights are getting colder, and we've got a lot going on!

The needs in our community are great. And we know that perhaps the most important need we can meet is that of a meaningful connection to community; a sense of belonging, a place to call home. What we need more than anything are people who want to join our community and simply be with our community members. This looks like listening without judgement, learning from, and sitting and eating with folks who are too often disregarded by society.

But when we care for people, we can't simply ignore their physical needs. Can you help us meet some of these needs?

CURRENT NEEDS



WINTER JACKETS!

Coats, sweaters and other warm clothes help keep people warm through the cooler nights.



WINTER GLOVES AND BOOTS

Feet and hands are the hardest to keep warm!



HOMEMADE COOKIES

Our community loves anything home baked, and it absolutely helps bring a small taste of home to our programs!



SLEEPING BAGS

Even though it is hot during the day, the nights are still cool, and sleeping can be tough without proper gear.



TENTS AND TARPS

We meet people who are new to the street almost everyday. They are looking for ways to shelter themselves.



BACKPACKS

Folks need a way to carry all their belongings. Too often things go missing otherwise!

We couldn't do any of this without your support.

Please pray with us and for us. As you likely know, the Sanctuary office building has been sold and will be torn down with an expected move out date for early 2026. We are exploring various options, and have a number of different conversations happening. Ultimately, we are learning to trust in the leading and care of our Creator to provide for our needs.

THANK YOU!



Sanctuary London

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